

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03230 01 OF 02 111943Z

70

ACTION ACDA-10

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 3230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: U.S. INTRODUCTION OF OPTION III AT JUNE 11 NAC

REF: A) STATE 132093; B) STATE 132089; C) USNATO 3194

DTG 101435Z JUNE 75 (NOTAL); D) STATE 135883 (NOTAL)

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PAGE 02 NATO 03230 01 OF 02 111943Z

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR BRUCE INTRODUCED U.S. PROPOSAL ON OPTION III
AT JUNE 11 NAC. PERMREPS WELCOMED INTRODUCTION OF U.S. PROPOSAL,
AND AGREED WITH U.S. RECOMMENDATION TO REFER IT TO SPC REINFORCED
BY EXPERTS, AND TO ASK MC CHAIRMAN TO REQUEST SACEUR TO

UPDATE 1973 ASSESSMENT. HOWEVER, UK AND BELGIAN REPS NOTED POSSIBLE MBFR WORKING GROUP ROLE. NAC AGREED SPC REINFORCED BY EXPERTS COULD FIRST CONSIDER U.S. PAPER "AT END OF NEXT WEEK." SPC ON JUNE 12 WILL FIX A DATE, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE EITHER JUNE 19-20 OR JUNE 23-24. MISSION WILL SUPPORT LATTER UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE. ALSO NAC HAD INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION RE POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE, WITH SYG LUNS PROPOSING THE IS LANGUAGE WHICH U.S. SUPPORTS, AND CANADIAN REP PROPOSING AN ALTERNATIVE VERSION. QUESTION OF PRESS GUIDANCE MAY ARISE AT JUNE 12 SPC MEETING. HOWEVER, CANADIAN DELEGATION INFORMS US CANADIAN REP'S PROPOSAL WAS ON PERSONAL BASIS, CANADIANS CAN ACCEPT IS VERSION, AND WILL NOT PRESS THEIR OWN VERSION. IS HAS CANVASSED DELEGATIONS, FOLLOWING THE MEETING, AND MOST CAN SUPPORT IS TEXT, WITH EXCEPTION OF DUTCH, WHO WISH TO BE ABLE TO USE EITHER IS OR CANADIAN VERSIONS, AND UK AND BELGIAN DELEGATIONS, WHICH DO NOT YET HAVE INSTRUCTIONS.

END SUMMARY:

1. AT JUNE 11 NAC MEETING, WITH ATTENDANCE LIMITED TO PERMREP PLUS TWO, AMBASSADOR BRUCE INTRODUCED U.S. PROPOSAL ON OPTION III. HE DESCRIBED PROCEDURE U.S. WISHES TO FOLLOW ON ALLIANCECONSULTATIONS, STRESSED THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF THESE CONSULTATIONS. HE CIRCULATED THE TEXTS CONTAINED IN REF A AND REF B.

2. SYG LUNS SAID THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL DESERVED CAREFUL STUDY, AND INVITED ANY COMMENTS OF A GENERAL NATURE WHICH THE PERMREPS MIGHT HAVE.

3. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD BE EXTREMELY PLEASED BY THE U.S. INITIATIVE. THE NETHERLANDS HAD ALWAYS BEEN CONVINCED OF THE NEED TO DISCUSS TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITH THE EAST, AND MBFR IS THE BEST FORUM. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. AND THE NETHERLANDS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH BILATERALLY ON THIS ISSUE, AND HE BELIEVED THAT ALL THE ALLIES HAVE SOME INFORMATION NOTES THE NETHERLANDS HAD SUBMITTED IN WASHINGTON. HE WAS GRATIFIED TO SEE THAT U.S. AND DUTCH IDEAS WERE NOT VERY SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 03230 01 OF 02 111943Z

DIFFERENT. HE SAID THE NETHERLANDS AGREES WITH THE U.S. THAT NATO STUDY SHOULD BE PURSUED WITH GREATEST SPEED, NOT ONLY TO BE PREPARED FOR THE AUTUMN SESSION IN VIENNA, BUT ALSO TO PRESERVE THE SECRECY OF ALLIED DISCUSSIONS OF THE SUBJECT. HE SAID THAT THE SOONER THE ALLIES HAVE AN OFFER TO MAKE TO THE EAST THE BETTER. NETHERLANDS SUPPORTS U.S. PROPOSAL TO HAVE SPC WORK EXPEDITIOUSLY ON OPTION III. WITHIN THE SPC, COUNTRIES COULD, OF COURSE, ARRANGE THEIR DELEGATIONS THE WAY THEY WISHED.

4. CHARGE LOGAN (UK) SAID LONDON ALSO WELCOMED THE U.S. INITIATIVE, AND LOOKED FORWARD TO EXAMINING THIS IMPORTANT PROPOSAL WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. HE AGREED WITH HARTOGH THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY. HOWEVER, THERE IS A GOOD DEAL TO DISCUSS IN OPTION

III, AND THE UK WANTS THOROUGH DISCUSSION. HE WAS GLAD THE U.S. PROPOSED THAT MC CHAIRMAN OBTAIN UPDATE OF 1973 SHAPE ASSESSMENT. A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THAT ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT. HE SAID. IN ADDITION, THAT ASSESSMENT CONSIDERED THE ORIGINAL OPTION III, WHICH WAS ONE OF THREE SEPARATE, ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS. WHAT THE U.S. IS NOW PROPOSING IS TO ADD OPTION III TO THE PRESENT ALLIED POSITION TO OBTAIN ALLIED GOALS. THIS IS A FACTOR SACEUR WILL HAVE TO LOOK AT.

5. HE SAID UK WAS READY TO GO ALONG WITH U.S. PROPOSAL OF SPC REINFORCED BY EXPERTS TO STUDY OPTION III. HOWEVER, THE UK DID NOT SEE WHY THIS SHOULD BE AN EXCLUSIVE ARRANGEMENT. THE ALLIES HAVE SET UP AN MBFR WORKING GROUP TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF MBFR, IT SEEMS TO UK THAT ASPECTS OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL MIGHT BE DISCUSSED IN THAT GROUP. THERE IS NO NEED TO DECIDE THIS NOW, SINCE IT COULD BE LEFT TO THE SPC.

6. RE PUBLICITY, LOGAN SAID THAT THE ALLIES HAVE NOW EMBARKED ON AN OPERATION LEADING TO POSSIBLE GUIDANCE TO AHG AT AN UNFORESEEN DATE, ANY INDICATION TO THE PRESS THAT THE ALLIES HAVE EMBARKED ON SOMETHING NEW WOULD CONSTITUTE A SIGNAL TO THE EAST, AND WOULD INCITE THE PRESS TO CONSTANT INQUIRIES AS TO HOW THE ALLIES WERE GETTING ON WITH THE TASK. HE NOTED THAT THE U.S. HAD MADE ITS PROPOSAL AT A RESTRICTED SESSION, AND HE STRESSED THE NEED TO AVOID ANY DISCUSSION OUTSIDE NATO FORUMS.

7. LUNS SAID, IN RESPONSE TO LOGAN, THAT HE WAS SURE THAT THE U.S. DID NOT INTEND SPC REINFORCED BY EXPERTS TO BE
SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 03230 01 OF 02 111943Z

EXCLUSIVE. RE PUBLICITY, HE NOTED A CONSENSUS AT THE JUNE 10 PERMREPS LUNCH FOR A PRESS STATEMENT, SAYING AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE, AND FOR USE ONLY IF THE NEED AROSE. THE ALLIES HAVE STARTED A PROCESS WHICH COULD TAKE MANY MONTHS, AND EVERYONE AGREES ON THE NEED TO AVOID PUBLICITY.

8. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) SAID HE CONSIDERED THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE U.S. STATEMENT (REF A) TO BE GOOD. THE SPC WOULD CLEAR THE TERRAIN AND WORK ON OPTION III IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE NAC. THE SPC SHOULD REGULARLY REPORT TO THE NAC ON THE STATE OF ITS WORK. THE PRESENCE OF EXPERTS WAS A GOOD IDEA. COOPERATION OF THE MILITARY WAS FUNDAMENTAL IN THIS EXERCISE. THE SHAPE ASSESSMENT OBTAINED BY THE MC SHOULD BE MORE THAN AN UPDATE. THE MBFR WG IN A RAPID MANNER SHOULD BE ABLE TO HELP, WITH THE AID OF THE MC CHAIRMAN. ON PUBLICITY, HE NOTED THAT WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF 15 CAPITALS, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF A LEAK. HE AGREED WITH LOGAN ON THE NEED TO AVOID SENSATIONALISM. HOWEVER, SYG LUNS, AND NATO CAPITALS NEED TO BE READY TO REPLY TO PRESS INQUIRIES BY SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES THAT THE ALLIES STUDY ALL ELEMENTS TO ASSURE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATION.

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 03230 02 OF 02 112009Z

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SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 /083 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2253

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 3230

9. CATALANO (ITALY) SUPPORTED THE U.S. PROPOSAL THAT REIN-
FORCED SPC WORK ON OPTION III, AND THAT MC REP OBTAIN UPDATED
SHAPE ASSESSMENT. THIS IS ABOVE ALL A POLITICAL MATTER, SO SPC IS
MOST APPROPRIATE BODY. HE AGREED ON NECESSITY FOR HASTE
IN SPC, BUT ALSO AGREED WITH LOGAN ON NEED TO CONSIDER OPTION III
THOROUGHLY AND IN ALL DETAILS. HE RAISED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON
A PERSONAL BASIS WHICH HE THOUGHT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES WOULD EVEN-
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 03230 02 OF 02 112009Z

TUALLY WISH TO CONSIDER. ARE THE NUMBERS IN THE PRESENT U.S.
OPTION III DESIRABLE, GIVEN THE FACT THAT NUMBERS OF EASTERN TANKS
HAVE INCREASED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THE 1973 SHAPE ASSESSMENT?
WHAT DO THE ALLIES HOPE TO OBTAIN FOR OPTION III? WHAT IS RELA-
TIONSHIP TO FBS, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE EUROPEANS HAVE SOUGHT

TO KEEP FBS OUT OF SALT? WHAT IS THE EFFECT ON DETERRENCE OF REDUCTION OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR ELEMENTS IN OPTION III POSSIBLY AT THE SAME TIME AS PROGRESS IN SALT? REGARDING PUBLICITY, HE BELIEVED ANY CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE SHOULD BE STRICTLY LIMITED TO NOTING THAT THE ALLIES ALWAYS STUDY ALL PROBLEMS.

10. MENZIES (CANADA) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES HAD BELIEVED FOR SOME TIME THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD CONSIDER ADDING NEW ELEMENTS TO THEIR PROPOSAL, AND HE WELCOMED THE U.S. INITIATIVE. HE THOUGHT THE U.S. IDEAS ON PROCEDURE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO CANADA. ON PUBLICITY, HE SUGGESTED CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE SAY THAT AFTER THE SUMMIT THE NAC WAS ENGAGING IN A GENERAL REVIEW OF MBFR, NOTING THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD THUS FAR ENABLED EACH SIDE BETTER TO UNDERSTAND THE OTHER SIDE'S POSITION, BUT HAD RESULTED IN NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF TOWARD REDUCTION OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE WITH UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR ALL PARTIES.

11. HARTOGH SAID THAT SAYING TOO LITTLE TO THE PRESS WAS MORE DANGEROUS THAN SAYING TOO MUCH, SINCE THAT WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE THE PRESS TO FIND OUT HERE AND IN CAPITALS WHAT THE ALLIES ARE DOING ON OPTION III. THUS IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO VOLUNTEER TO THE PRESS THAT WE ARE STUDYING HOW TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS NEXT YEAR, SO THAT THE PRESS WILL KNOW THAT WE ARE WORKING ON THIS. THE IMPORTANT THING TO CONVEY IS THAT THE ALLIES HAVE MADE NO DECISION YET.

12. LUNS THEN SUMMED UP THE DISCUSSION THUS FAR. HE SAID CAPITALS WOULD NEED A WEEK OR SO TO STUDY THE U.S. PROPOSAL. THE SPC COULD TAKE IT UP "AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK." THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO SPC MEETINGS REINFORCED BY EXPERTS, OR TO ASKING MC CHAIRMAN TO REQUEST UPDATE OF SHAPE ASSESSMENT. HE RECALLED THAT MC HAD TRANSMITTED THE ORIGINAL SHAPE ASSESSMENT TO THE NAC WITH A BRIEF MC COMMENT, AND NO OBJECTION HAD BEEN RAISED TO REPEATNG THIS PROCEDURE. ON PUBLICITY, HE PROPOSED THE CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE CLOSE TO THAT REPORTED IN REF C, AS AMENDED BY REF D, ADDING THAT
SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 03230 02 OF 02 112009Z

SPOKESMEN SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND THIS LAPIDARY BRIEF STATEMENT.

13. MENZIES SAID THAT STATEMENT WOULD NOT BE VERY EXCITING FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PEOPLE, AND REPEATED THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL FOR CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE, WHICH CONTAINED USEFUL REFERENCE TO THE NATO SUMMIT. HE NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR BRUCE'S STATEMENT HAD REFERRED TO PRESIDENT FORD'S REMARKS ON MBFR AT THE SUMMIT. HE WONDERED IF THE CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE COULD NOT REFER TO THE SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE IN SOME WAY.

14. LUNS NOTED THE ADVANTAGE OF THE IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE AS A FIRST STEP, IN VIEW OF THE USEFULNESS OF HAVING SOMETHING READY SOON IN THE EVENT OF LEAKS.

15. GENERAL COLLADAY (ACTING MC REP) SAID IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR SHAPE TO UPDATE ITS ASSESSMENT, AND FOR MC TO COMMENT ON IT, AND HE WAS SURE THIS COULD BE CARRIED OUT EXPEDITIOUSLY. HE SAID IT WOULD BE ON THE MC AGENDA TOMORROW. DE STAERCKE REPLIED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE MC APPROVAL FOR MC CHAIRMAN TO ASK SACEUR TO UPDATE THE ASSESSMENT. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THIS WILL GO ON MC AGENDA TOMORROW AS A FORMALITY.)

16 HARTOGH NOTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT, INCLUDING HIS REFERENCE TO MBFR, HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE PRESS, SO THAT THE LATTER KNOWS WE ARE TALKING ABOUT NEW INITIATIVES. THERE IS NO REASON TO HIDE THIS, ALTERNATIVELY, THE GUIDANCE COULD REFER TO NEW ELEMENTS OR NEW FACETS. WE SHOULD AUTHORIZE PRESS SPOKESMEN TO SAY THAT MUCH AND NO MORE.

17. LOGAN SAID THE ALLIES HAVE JUST BEGUN TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF A SIGNAL TO THE EAST ON INCLUSION OF NUCLEAR ELEMENTS IN MBFR. IF WE NOW SAY TO THE PRESS THAT, FOLLOWING THE SUMMIT, WE ARE EXAMINING NEW INITIATIVES, THAT WILL BE THE SIGNAL FOR THE EAST. THE UK WOULD WANT NO INDICATION TO THE PRESS THAT THE ALLIES ARE MOVING FORWARD TO STUDY A NEW INITIATIVE.

18. MENZIES NOTED THAT THE CANADIAN SUGGESTION CONTAINED NO REFERENCE TO A NEW INITIATIVE.

19. LUNS OBSERVED THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S REMARKS ON MBFR, AS IMPORTANT AS THEY WERE, HAD NOT RECEIVED TOO MUCH PLAY IN
SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 03230 02 OF 02 112009Z

THE PRESS, AND HAD NOT CREATED PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT THE ALLIES WERE ABOUT TO WORK ON OPTION III.

20. CATALANO AGREED WITH THE STATEMENT OF LOGAN HE ADDED THAT, IF THE ALLIES MADE EVEN A SMALL HINT THAT THEY WERE WORKING ON SOMETHING NEW, THIS WOULD LEAD TO FURTHER REVELATIONS LATER, WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY INFRINGE UPON THE AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST ON SECURITY OF THE NEGOTIATION.

21. DE STAERCKE ALSO AGREED WITH LOGAN, AND SAID ANY MENTION TO THE PRESS OF AN INITIATIVE WOULD IN A SENSE CONDEMN THE ALLIES TO SUCCEED, WHEREAS THE ALLIES DO NOT KNOW YET IF THEY WILL ACTUALLY DECIDE TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE.

22. LUNS SAID HE WOULD DISTRIBUTE TEXT OF ITS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE CANADIANS DO THE SAME. HE NOTED THE NEED FOR SECURITY. HE SAID ALLIES WOULD NOT DECIDE ON COMMON STANCE VIS-A-VIS PRESS UNTIL FURTHER DISCUSSION.

23. AT MISSION SUGGESTION FOLLOWING THE NAC MEETING, IS OFFICIAL HAS CANVASED ALL DELEGATIONS TO SEEK THEIR AGREEMENT TO CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE PER REFS C AND D SO THAT IT WILL BE READY IF NEEDED WITHOUT PREJUDICING ANYONE'S POSITION

REGARDING MORE EXTENSIVE PRESS GUIDANCE. MOST DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING CANADIAN, HAVE ACCEPTED IT. UK AND BELGIAN DELEGATIONS HAVE RESERVED, PENDING RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS. HOWEVER, NETHERLANDS DELEGATION IS TAKING POSITION THAT PRESS SPOKESMAN INCLUDING DUTCH SPOKESMEN CAN DRAW ON PRESS GUIDANCE SUGGESTED BY EITHER IS OR CANADIANS, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

24. SPC ON THURSDAY, JUNE 12 WILL FIX THE DATE OF FIRST SPC MEETING WITH EXPERTS, IN LIGHT OF NAC CONSENSUS THAT THIS COULD BE AT END OF NEXT WEEK. FRG DELEGATION HAS INDICATED PRIVATELY TO US FRG PREFERENCE FOR BEGINNING OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK. THE TWO POSSIBILITIES FOR FIRST REINFORCED SPC MEETING APPEAR TO BE EITHER JUNE 19-20 OR JUNE 23-24. MISSION WILL SUPPORT THE LATTER UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.

25. QUESTION OF PRESS GUIDANCE MAY ALSO ARISE AT JUNE 12

SECRET

PAGE 05 NATO 03230 02 OF 02 112009Z

SPC, IN VIEW OF DUTCH DESIRE TO BE ABLE TO USE EITHER IS OR CANADIAN VERSIONS, AND UK AND BELGIAN LACK OF INSTRUCTIONS. CANADIAN TEXT OFFERED ON PURELY PERSONAL BASIS BY MENZIES, AND CANADIANS DO NOT INTEND TO PRESS IT. MISSION SHALL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF US PREFERRED TEXT. BRUCE

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COPENHAGEN
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